

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W  
-----027674 010521Z /17

R 311320Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7999  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY MBABANE  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, SF  
SUBJECT: SSRC TRIAL POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18  
  
REF: JOHANNESBURG 1845

1. ELEVEN FORMER MEMBERS OF SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL APPEARED BRIEFLY IN COURT FRIDAY AND WERE REMANDED ON A CHARGE OF SEDITION WITH CASE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18.

2. ALL THE ACCUSED APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS ALTHOUGH ONE WAS USING CRUTCHES IN COURT.

3. SHUN CHETTY, ACTING FOR THE DEFENSE, REQUESTED LONGER DELAY IN ORDER TO PREPARE THEIR DEFENSE BUT  
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THIS WAS DENIED.

4. COMMENT: THIS TRIAL, PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY IN RECENT YEARS, IS BOUND TO AROUSE THE INTEREST OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. BEYOND THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF THE "SSRC ELEVEN", THIS TRIAL SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENTS THE CHALLENGE TO THE

SYSTEM THAT THE SOWETO STUDENTS POSED IN JUNE 1976  
AND THEREAFTER. WHILE MANY SOWETO BLACKS DISAGREED  
WITH STUDENT TACTICS AND GRADUALLY TIRED OF THE UNREST,  
THIS TRIAL NONETHELESS IS BOUND TO UNITE THE SENTI-  
MENTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND AROUSE NEW FEELINGS. WHILE  
THE ACCUSED STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF CONVICTION UNDER  
THE CHARGES, PARTICULARLY AS THE PROSECUTION WILL HAVE  
AMPLE WITNESSES WILLING TO TESTIFY, THERE WILL BE  
SOME QUESTION WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT FEELS IT HAS  
MORE TO GAIN BY MAKING AN EXAMPLE OUT OF THE ELEVEN  
OR BY OFFERING AN OLIVE BRANCH TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY  
AND IN METING OUT RELATIVELY LENIENT SENTENCES.  
JOHNSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRIALS, STUDENTS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JOHANN01857  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780314-0013  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978074/aaaaadev.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 35623570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 JOHANNESBURG 1845  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1945664  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SSRC TRIAL POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18  
**TAGS:** PINS, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/35623570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014